

COMMEMORATING THE FORTY-YEAR CAREER OF DONALD MASSEY OF NEW MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this august body to commemorate the distinguished career of my constituent, Donald Massey, of Portales, New Mexico. It is an honor not only to represent Mr. Massey, but also to have the opportunity to commend his virtues. Through four decades of service and dedication to the people of New Mexico, Donald Massey brought telephone and wireless communication services to thousands of rural New Mexicans, as well as volunteering his time and energy to the community of Portales. Today, Mr. Massey is the CEO and Executive Vice-President of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (RCRTC), which offers telephone service to rural communities throughout Eastern New Mexico. He has also been the coordinator and spokesman for the State of New Mexico at the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association legislative conferences from the 1980s to the present.

In 1949, President Truman and this body recognized the need to bring telephone service to rural areas of our country, a need that is sometimes a matter of life and death. When Congress saw the need, men like Mr. Massey did the work. Beginning in 1964, he installed and maintained telephone lines in Eastern New Mexico as a lineman for the RCRTC. For the next 40 years, he successfully rose through company ranks to the very top management position. Far from being solely dedicated to his profession, however, Mr. Massey has continually served as a devoted member of his community, setting an example for his fellow citizens.

One instance of his service to his community was in October, 1998. In that year, the local hospital closed, and the residents were left without a medical facility. Donald Massey stepped in, and by helping obtain a grant of \$836,000 for the hospital, a new facility was quickly built. He ensured that fiber optic and wireless communications systems were installed in the new facility and even donated his office to the CEO of the hospital until the new building was completed.

In 2003, Donald Massey received the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association Management Life Achievement Award. This award was given to honor his 40 years of high standards and commitment in the rural telecommunications industry.

It is with great honor and pleasure that I present to this body the legacy of a man revered for his accomplishments. Amidst the many troubles and challenges our Nation faces, it is imperative that we are continually reminded of the good in our country and of those citizens who lead productive, honorable lives. Donald Massey is one of those citizens. I respectfully request that my colleagues join me in expressing sincere appreciation to him for his contributions to a better America and for his many years of service to the State of New Mexico. I also wish him the very best in his retirement and for continued success and fulfillment in the next stage of his life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. ACKERMAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas H. Ackerman, a native of East Lansing, MI and member of the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Ackerman boasts a proud history of service in the field of law enforcement. Since 1980 he has served as a Federal Agent, Police Officer, and Training Academy Instructor. He has also published numerous books related to the field and spoken nationally and internationally at law enforcement training facilities and conferences, including the FBI National Academy and the Swedish National Police College.

This month, Mr. Ackerman is being recognized at the Department of Agriculture's Annual Awards Ceremony. His acknowledgments include: interrupting a robbery, protecting the victim from serious injury, participating in the arrest of the suspect, and contributing to the safety of the community. This is the second time that he has been honored by the Department; in 2002 he was acknowledged for his work as part of the Bil Mar Foods, Incorporated, Investigation and Prosecution Team for promoting health by providing access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas H. Ackerman has been a hard-working, committed member of the community. He has dedicated his life to the protection of others, and has used his wealth of experience to help people eager to begin their careers in law enforcement. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ackerman for his heroism and thanking him for his service to America.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Assistance for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act. I want to thank the author, Ms. LEE, for her hard work and leadership in advocating for orphans for vulnerable children affected by the AIDS crisis.

Today, there are more than 110 million orphans throughout the world. Communities heavily affected by AIDS are being robbed of a generation of adults in their most productive years, leaving behind children to be raised by relatives, left on their own in households headed by children, or even worse—living in the streets.

The scope and complexity of the challenges facing children affected by HIV/AIDS cannot be overstated. Children often must take over adult work responsibilities and provide care for sick parents or family members, forcing them

to drop out of school and social activities. Children are forced to find any work necessary to support themselves and often their younger siblings.

We have a responsibility today to make a firm commitment to ensure that the funding we promised last year, in the Global HIV/AIDS bill, goes to improve the safety, health, and survival of these children. This important legislation will establish a new office of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children within USAID to adopt a comprehensive approach for assistance and coordinate that assistance provided to orphans and vulnerable children. By passing this legislation today and maintaining our promise for HIV/AIDS funding in the appropriations bill we are preparing to consider this year, we can provide hope and opportunity to the villages and communities where these AIDS orphans live, we can play an important role in educating and investing in future generations to fight this dangerous and deadly disease, and we can preserve the history of their culture for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK S. CONLIN, JR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to pay tribute to Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS. Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS will retire this June from both politics and his practice in dentistry after more than 30 years. Dr. Conlin has had a general practice in dentistry for 38 years in West Springfield, MA, and has been a model citizen in our city. He held many honors in both of these fields, including being elected to the Valley District Dental Society as Vice President for 2 years.

Dr. Conlin graduated from the College of Holy Cross with an A.B. degree in 1953. He later attended the American International College for Post Graduate studies from 1958 to 1959. Frederick Conlin received his DDS from the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry in 1963.

Conlin has also served in the armed forces for his country. From 1954 until 1956 Dr. Conlin proudly served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. However, Lieutenant Conlin has also given to his country through his participation in local politics, having held many elected positions in his local community.

Dr. Conlin was elected as a Town Meeting Member for 25 years. He was also elected to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectman both for 6 years respectively. He was also chosen to be on the Board of Health for 5 years. Dr. Conlin served as Vice President of the City Council for 3 years.

In addition to being elected to numerous organizations by his peers, Dr. Conlin also has volunteered to donate his time and talents to a plethora of other boards and organizations; including, the Town Government Study committee for 15 years, the American Legion Post 207 for 15 years, the Ramapogue Historical Society for 6 years, and served on the Board